

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. HOOLOCK GIBBON (*HYLOBATES HOOLOCK*) FEEDING ON LICHENS

During the behavioural studies of hoolock gibbon (*Hylobates hoolock*) in the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) and Borajan Reserve Forest (now WLS), in the upper Assam forest circle (India), we observed gibbons feeding on lichens, growing on the bark of trees. The forest may be categorized under Tropical Evergreen to Semi-evergreen and Moist Dipterocarp types. Gibbons are known to be frugivorous (Chivers 1984). Our study reveals that lichens constituted 2.7% of the hoolock gibbon's diet in Gibbon WLS and 1% in Borajan WLS, during the pre-monsoon months (March to May) in 1999.

The identification of lichens is currently underway, but the types were confirmed as typical foliose and fructose.

This study was funded by the Indo-US Primate Project, JNV University, Jodhpur.

August 28, 2000

P. BUJARBARUA

*Department of Botany, Gauhati University,
Guwahati 781 014, Assam, India.*

J. DAS

*Department of Zoology,
Gauhati University,
Guwahati 781 014, Assam, India.*

REFERENCE

CHIVERS, D.J. (1984): Feeding and ranging of Gibbons, a summary. *In: The Lesser Apes, Evolutionary and Behavioural Biology.* (Eds: Preuchoft, H., D.J. Chivers, W.Y. Brokelman and N. Creel) Edinburg University Press, Edinburg, pp. 267-284.

2. PREDATION BY TIGER *PANTHERA TIGRIS* LINN. ON GAUR *BOS GAURUS* H. SMITH IN PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

During a study in Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Madhya Pradesh on gaur (*Bos gaurus*) by the Wildlife Institute of India, predation on gaur by carnivores was observed from 1996 to 1999. The PTR (78° 55' E to 79° 35' E and 21° 8' N to 22° N; 757.85 sq. km) lies in the southern lower reaches of Satpura hill ranges in Madhya Pradesh and comprises of the Sanctuary, National Park and Reserved Forests. The vegetation falls under Tropical Moist Deciduous and Tropical Dry Deciduous types (Champion and Seth 1968). The terrain is undulating, with hillocks and ravines, varying from 220 m to 650 m.

Between February 1996 and September 1999, 76 kills of wild ungulates were located in PTR. Of these, only 5 were of gaur — two yearlings, two bulls and one cow (Table 1). All were tiger (*Panthera tigris*) kills, except one yearling male gaur in 1996, whose predator could not be ascertained, as the kill was 4-5 days old and no tracks or other signs were seen. Three

adult gaur kills had deep puncture marks, either on the hind or forelegs or both, or on the throat. In two of the adult bulls killed, the cervical vertebrae were broken. The yearling gaur had bites on both the throat and the nape. No signs

TABLE 1
GAUR (*BOS GAURUS*) KILLS
IN PENCH TIGER RESERVE

Date	Age & Sex	Predator	No.	Remarks
10.04.1996	Yearling (Male)	Unknown	1	
14.04.1997	Yearling (Male)	Tiger	1	(Infected) Foot and Mouth Disease
26.04.1997	Bull (4-5 years)	Tiger	1	
10.05.1997	Bull (5-6 years)	Tiger	1	
13.06.1997	Cow (4-5 years)	Tiger	1	Pregnant (7-8 months old foetus recovered from the womb on post-mortem)
Total			5	